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## PREFACE.

TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE SAFFRON WALDEN  
BOROUGH COUNCIL.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1945.

The Registrar General's estimate of population of the district for the year was 6,979. This represents an increase of 652 on the estimate for 1939, which may be taken as the most recent normal year. During the intervening period the number of inhabited houses increased from 1,928 to 1,970.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population for the year 1945 was 14.4; that for the previous year was 12.9, and the average for the five years preceding the outbreak of war was 13.4.

The Birth Rate for the year was 15.3; while the Rate for 1944 was 18.2, and the average Rate for the five pre-war years was 10.7.

The Infant Mortality Rate for the year was 46.7 per 1,000 births; for the previous year this Rate was 39, and the average for the five pre-war years was 34.

The incidence of infectious disease was again very low.

S. R. RICHARDSON,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

Sum represented by a penny rate: £158.

			Total	Male	Female			
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	...	90	52	38	{	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 15.3.	•
	Illegitimate	...	17	8	9			
STILL BIRTHS	Legitimate	...	4	1	3	{	Rate per 1,000 total births (live and stillbirths) 44.6.	
	Illegitimate	...	1	—	1			
DEATHS	...	...	...	101	58	43	{	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 14.4.

- From puerperal sepsis, 0.  
From other puerperal causes, 0.  
Total, 0.

DEATHS of Infants under one year of age { Legitimate 4 } Total 5.  
 { Illegitimate 1 }

- All infants per 1,000 live births, 46.7.  
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births, 44.4.  
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births, 58.8.

## DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES:—

		No. in District	Outward Transfers	Inward Transfers	Those which apply to District
Under 1 year	...	8	3	0	5
1 and under 2	...	1	0	0	1
2 „ „ 5	...	0	0	0	0
5 „ „ 15	...	1	1	0	0
15 „ „ 25	...	4	1	0	3
25 „ „ 35	...	0	0	0	0
35 „ „ 45	...	4	1	3	6
45 „ „ 55	...	8	3	2	7
55 „ „ 65	...	20	9	5	16
65 „ „ 75	...	53	28	1	26
75 „ over	...	79	43	1	37
Total	...	178	89	12	101

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
„ „ Diarrhoea, under two years	...	...	0
„ „ Cancer	...	...	17

There was no excessive mortality from any particular disease during the year.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

*Medical Officer of Health :—*

S. R. RICHARDSON, B.A., M.D., D.P.H.

*Sanitary Inspector :—*

H. J. BAXTER, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

*Laboratory Service.*—Bacteriological Laboratory Service: The Essex County Council's Scheme serves this district, specimens being sent to St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping. Samples of milk are examined by the Essex Institute of Agriculture, Writtle.

*Ambulance Facilities.*—The emergency arrangements, organised to meet the greatly increased ambulance work during the war years, had worked smoothly until serious difficulties arose towards the end of the year 1944. The voluntary drivers who were members of the St. John and British Red Cross Organisations were also enrolled in Civil Defence, and A.R.P. Headquarters were used as a general ambulance depot. When this arrangement terminated the ambulance service was left without a depot where calls could be received and dealt with.

The only garage owned by the Local Authority was at the Isolation Hospital, where the more reliable of their two ambulances was kept. The Joint Committee therefore agreed to appoint a whole-time ambulance officer, and proposed to employ him at the Isolation Hospital, where his services would be of use to both Authorities; with the added advantage of being near his ambulance, and having the use of a constant telephone service.

It was not found possible to carry out this scheme, however, and at present the responsibility for dealing with calls and manning the ambulance is shared between two part-time drivers.

*Nursing.*—Two District Nurse Midwives are provided by the Local Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the Essex County Nursing Association and receives a grant from the County Council, but its funds are raised mainly by voluntary local effort.

*Hospitals.*—The area normally served by the Isolation Hospital is approximately 134 square miles, and the estimated population of this area is 23,376. Patients are also admitted from neighbouring districts in accordance with a mutual agreement.

Under the County Council Scheme for securing the co-ordination of Isolation Hospital accommodation in North-West Essex, the Borough of Saffron Walden is grouped with six neighbouring Sanitary Districts.

Normally, any additional accommodation which may be required within the seven Sanitary Districts would be provided by all the Local Authorities acting together as a unit. But when war became imminent the Joint Board of the Saffron Walden Borough and Rural Districts considered the provision of additional accommodation an urgent necessity, as the existing accommodation of sixteen beds at the Saffron Walden Isolation Hospital was the minimum specified in the Scheme for the area served, and it had been realised that additional accommodation would be required in the event of any increase of the population in the area.

The Board therefore decided to proceed with the erection of an emergency block to take sixteen beds. Subsequently, a grant was received from the Home Office to meet the expenses incurred, on the understanding that the sixteen beds should be held available for persons coming into the district under the Evacuation Scheme.



The Isolation Hospital has now a total accommodation of 32 beds, and the total number of patients admitted during the year was 63. Of these 14 were evacuees, 10 were from neighbouring districts and 6 were service patients.

During the five years ending 31st December, 1944, 939 patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. Of these, 279 belonged to the area normally served by the hospital, 143 were evacuees, 118 were from neighbouring districts and 399 were service patients.

The County Council is responsible for the treatment of Smallpox cases occurring in the Administrative County. The Smallpox Hospital is situated at Colchester.

### TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

#### *Provided by the Local Authority :*

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics, at the Central Hall, weekly on Fridays at 2.30 p.m. Additional Clinics by arrangement, at 69, High Street.

#### *Provided by the Essex County Council :*

Tuberculosis Dispensary, at the General Hospital, first and third Tuesdays in each month, at 2 p.m.

Maternity and Child Welfare, at the Central Hall, weekly on Fridays, at 2.30 p.m.

#### *School Clinics :*

Minor Ailments Clinics, at 69, High Street, weekly on Tuesdays, at 10 a.m.

Dental and Eye Clinics, at 69, High Street, by arrangement.

Orthopædic Clinics, at 69, High Street, on fourth Monday in each month, at 10 a.m.

Orthopædic Ascertainment Clinics, at the General Hospital, twice yearly.

Ante-Natal Clinics, at 69, High Street, on first and third Tuesdays in each month at 10 a.m. and quarterly on fifth Tuesday.

*Venereal Diseases :* Treatment is available at any of the principle London Hospitals and at Cambridge, Chelmsford and Colchester Hospitals. Notifications, under Defence Regulation 33B, are dealt with by the County Medical Officer.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

*Water :*

Before the outbreak of war, the Borough Engineer reported that the storage capacity represented only one day's supply, and pointed out that it would be impracticable to undertake a wider distribution of water in the Rural portion of the area until a much greater storage capacity could be provided. He proposed that a new reservoir should be built with a capacity equal to five days' supply, and a new water tower constructed at a higher level.

This scheme was considered by the Council, but postponed for the period of the war.

The following is a summary of the analysis of a sample taken, after softening, during the year :—

					Parts per 100,000
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	4.1
Chlorine (in Chlorides)	...	...	...	...	1.5
Nitrogen (in Nitrates)	...	...	...	...	0.46
Nitrates	...	...	...	...	absent
Hardness (Permanent)	...	...	...	...	1.0
Hardness (Temporary)	...	...	...	...	27.0
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	nil
Oxygen Absorbed (in 4 hours at 80 degrees C)	...	...	...	...	nil
Free CO <sub>2</sub>	...	...	...	...	3.3

The results show the water to be of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

*Drainage and Sewerage.*—The Scheme for the supply of new works, capable of dealing with the sewage from certain neighbouring villages in the Rural District, which had been approved in principle by the two Councils, had reached the stage of the preparation of a detailed report with plans and estimates when war broke out, but final negotiations had not been completed. Negotiations with the Saffron Walden Rural District Council were resumed in 1945.

*Closet Accommodation.*—The water-carriage system is now general in the Borough, but in some instances there is still insufficient space for adequate sanitary accommodation.

*Public Cleansing.*—Dust bins are required to be provided for all new houses. Weekly collections are carried out by the Corporation, a lorry belonging to the Council being used for the purpose.

*Baths.*—Extensive structural improvements, including the installation of filtration plant, were approved by the Council in 1938, but progress in this direction has not yet been possible.

*Camping Sites.*—There is only one site in the area used for camping purposes.



*Eradication of Bed Bugs.*—During the war 16 premises were found to be infested with Bed Bugs. There has been an increase in their prevalence during the past few years, and in most cases it has seemed probable that they were introduced by evacuated families.

*Sanitary Inspection of the Area :—*The Sanitary Inspector presents the following Report on the Inspection of the area during the year : —

Total number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	1015
Nuisances or Defects found	...	...	...	...	921
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	421
Informal (written) Notices	...	...	...	...	67
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisances and Defects remedied	...	...	...	...	894
Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	136
Houses Re-inspected	...	...	...	...	95
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	34
Schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	0
Inspection of 2 Government Controlled Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	892
Inspection of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	28
Inspection of Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	29
Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	6
Articles of Food destroyed as unsound	...	...	...	...	see list
Samples of Water	...	...	...	...	1

*Unsound Food :*

Food in Tins, Jars, Bottles or Packets	...	...	1601 Containers
Margarine	...	...	5 lbs.
Butter	...	...	17 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Sugar	...	...	9 lbs.
Rolled Oats	...	...	33 lbs.
Tea	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Flour	...	...	30 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Cocoa	...	...	18 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Macaroni	...	...	5 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	30 lbs.
Sultanas	...	...	5 lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	10 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Sweets	...	...	4 lbs.
Fish Cakes	...	...	278
Pork Sausages	...	...	48 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Savoury Meat	...	...	3 lbs.

The greater part of the foodstuffs condemned were handed over for animal food, and a small quantity was destroyed.

*Food handed over for Manure purposes :*

Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	72 stone
Whelks	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 Quart

*Food returned to Vendors :*

Dried Milk	...	...	...	...	...	5 tins
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	83 lbs.

*Food handed to Salvage Department, Ministry of Food :*

Butter	...	...	...	...	...	24 lbs.
Split Peas	...	...	...	...	...	2 cwt.
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	40 lbs.
Barley Flakes	...	...	...	...	...	2 cwt.

*Rat Destruction.*—There has been an increase in the number of rats recently, and a full-time Operator was appointed during the year. 282 visits were paid to property in the district; the Slade and Public Sewers also received treatment.

The War Agricultural Committee is responsible for rat destruction at the Refuse Dump and on farms.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

*Milk Supply.*—National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. The object of this Scheme is to prevent, as far as possible, the serious loss of milk from souring which occurred during the first two years of the war.

While it is vital to secure as much milk as possible in the interests of nutrition, both production and distribution have been made more difficult by shortage of labour and materials, and other war-time conditions. It has therefore been decided to concentrate upon methods and cleanliness.

The Testing and Advisory Scheme is carried out under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and details of the procedure have been explained to all Local Authorities in the various Ministry of Health circulars.

Under the Scheme, all milk delivered from farms is sampled and tested; a special form of test being used which has been adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the specific purpose of determining the keeping quality of milk.

In cases where unsatisfactory results are obtained, the Executive Committee send an Inspector to the farms to ascertain why the milk is defective, and to suggest remedies.

While the testing is done in Trade Laboratories, and Local Authorities are not concerned in the actual sampling, in order to secure co-operation all unsatisfactory cases are reported to the Local Authority, whose Inspector accompanies the representative of the War Agricultural Executive Committee on his advisory visits to the farm in question.

In addition to the milk testing supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, routine sampling work is undertaken by the Essex County Council. Under the County Scheme at least six samples per year are obtained from farms licenced to produce T.T. or Accredited Milk. If unsatisfactory results are obtained the number is exceeded. Where milk is supplied to schools, one sample per school term is obtained at the school, and submitted to various tests.

The responsibilities of Local Authorities, under the Milk and Dairies Orders, are not affected by either of these Schemes, but they are advised to concentrate chiefly on the methods of handling, processing and conveyance of milk; buildings being of secondary importance. Additional samples are taken by the Sanitary Inspector when necessary.

There are 10 Cowsheds and 12 Purveyors of Milk in the district.

*Bakehouses.*—There are 7 Bakehouses in the district. These are periodically inspected.

*Meat.*—There are two Government Controlled Slaughter-houses in the district. The number of inspections made by the Inspector during the year, and including visits at the time of slaughter, was 892.

#### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

			Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	...	...	1196	442	2061	536
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	...		9	0	11	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...		246	18	19	193
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	...	...	22.2	4.3	1.4	37.1
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	...		9	2	0	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...		127	0	0	13
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...		12.2	.45	0	2.8

*Adulteration, etc. :—*

*Ice Cream.*—5 persons are registered under the Essex County Council Act, 1933, for the sale, manufacture or storage of ice-cream,

# 1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
<b>Factories</b> ... .. (including Factory Laundries)	15	0	—
<b>Workshops</b> ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	25	0	—
<b>Workplaces</b> ... ..	21	0	—
<b>Total</b> ... ..	61	0	Nil

# 2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars  (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted  (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness ... ..	8	8	—	—
Want of Ventilation ... ..	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	0	0	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ... ..	4	4	—	—
Other nuisances ... ..	3	3	—	—
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient ...	3	—	—
	unsuitable or defective	2	—	—
	not separate for sexes	1	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..	0	0	—	—
Other offences ... ..	0	0	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921)				
Total ... ..	22	22	Nil	Nil

## HOUSING.

The acquisition of additional land required for the post-war housing programme had received the approval of the Ministry of Health, so that it was possible to arrange further preliminaries without delay in the early months of the year. Twenty temporary houses were allocated, and it was decided to erect these on the site of rather less than two acres, which was owned by the Council, and in the pre-war programme had been ear-marked for the building of houses for over-crowded families.

In order to expedite the proposed programme for the building of 200 dwellings, negotiations were begun for the purchase of two large sites in the Borough having a total area of approximately 35 acres; and two small sites of 2.7 acres and 1.9 acres in the hamlets of Swards End and Little Walden.

Although the ratio of population to occupied houses has been almost stationary in recent years, the housing shortage has become a steadily increasing difficulty. In this district, the ratio does not give any indication of actual housing shortage. The most important contributory causes are the unusually high proportion of small cottages in this borough, the high average age of the inhabitants, and the marked general increase in the proportion of elderly tenants. (The number of persons over 80 years of age has more than doubled in the past thirty years, and only a very small proportion of them are in institutions.)

It is true that the cottages occupied by elderly couples are for the most part of the one or two bedroom type. These are no longer considered adequate accommodation for growing families; they are in fact being used in the best possible way, and their occupation by old folks in no way increases the shortage of accommodation which would be suitable for families. Only by the provision of a sufficient number of three bedroomed houses can the shortage be finally eliminated.

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

*Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	136
Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	151
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	1
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	10

*Remedy of Defects with Service of Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of action by the Local Authority ... ..	1
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*Housing Act, 1936. Part 4. Overcrowding :—*

1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ...	21
Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	27
Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	126
2. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
3. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	6
Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	37

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)  
during the year 1945.

*Diphtheria Immunisation.*—Since the immunisation of children became general five years ago, no immunised person in this district has contracted the disease. But during that period five persons who had not been immunised developed diphtheria.

The special efforts to increase the proportion of children immunised against diphtheria were maintained throughout the year, and the results as a whole were satisfactory.

While general propaganda has done useful work in arousing the interest of parents, there is no doubt that personal contact is the deciding factor in obtaining satisfactory results.

As in previous years, the response in the case of children under school age was below the average, probably owing to the fact that the Local Authority does not possess the staff necessary for visiting homes.

In November, 1945, instructions were issued by the Ministry of Health to the effect that Welfare Authorities, who are already responsible for the care of children below school-age and possess the staff for personal contact with parents, should be made responsible for the immunisation of infants and children under school-age, while Local Authorities continue to provide facilities for the immunisation of school children, and to be primarily responsible for records.

TUBERCULOSIS.

*Notifications.*—Six cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. The patients were two males, aged 32 and 63 years respectively and four females, aged 39, 40, 59 and 61 years.

The deaths of two males, aged 49 and 63 years respectively, from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and two males aged 16 months and 16 years from non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, were registered.